

Weekly Column for November 4, 2004

It is officially getting cold and officially November. The rain is falling, but the snow is coming.

The election is over and I want to congratulate all of the local winners, especially Matt Turner and Chris Maier, who won the Family Court and City Court Judge seats, respectively, on Tuesday in the City of Troy. No matter who you voted for in the presidential race, the turnout was extremely high and that is when democracy is functioning at its highest level.

There was a great story in the newspaper this morning about 18 condominiums that will be built in Lansingburgh at the former Ready Funding building on Third Avenue near Powers Park. J.W. Pfeil and Company is the developer of the project, and it is extremely exciting for a number of reasons. The first is this project will be an adaptive reuse of a historic building. We have received a lot of publicity recently for buildings being torn down because the structures were near collapse. However, news like this is much more exciting and much more positive.

The developers plan on pouring \$2 million into a century old building to renovate it and bring in condominiums in the area of 1,000 to 2,300 square feet. I've met with Jeffrey and Deane Pfeil, who make perfect sense when talking about the project. Not only is there a demand for housing like this, but sales of homes in Troy are increasing every month. It makes me happy when I read something like this in the newspaper:

"Troy is perfect for this kind of development."

I would completely agree with Mr. Pfeil. This is another project that will help the City of Troy realize its potential in the future.

In other development news, I am asking the City Council to pass legislation this month that will allow the next steps in the Congress-Ferry Street redevelopment to take place. When all is said and done, this project could be \$100 million of development and show a sincere commitment to the taxpayers that we are dedicated to increasing our tax base. I have the most sincere belief that this project is going to be a huge boost to the City in the next decade.

Take care this week, stay warm, and I'll talk to you next week. Any questions, comments concerns or complaints, don't hesitate to call me 270-4401 or e-mail the Mayor's Office.